

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6686

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV, SA, WA

SUBJ: PIK BOTHA STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT

1. SUMMARY: SPEAKING TO PARLIAMENT FEB 2, PIK BOTHA CONCENTRATED PRIMARILY ON ATTACKING OPPOSITION PARTY POLICIES. HE ALSO DWELLED AT LENGTH ON WHAT HE TERMED THE THREAT FROM INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM. ON NAMIBIA, BOTHA REVIEWED HIS VERSION OF THE RECORD, POINTING OUT HOW "REASONABLE" SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN AND ASSERTING THAT THE SAG IS UNWILLING TO TURN SWA OVER TO "TERRORISTS".
END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PIK BOTHA BRIEFLY ADDRESSED PARLIAMENT DURING THE NO CONFIDENCE DEBATE ON THE AFTERNOON OF FEB 2. BOTHA'S MAJOR THEME WAS
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THAT THE OPPOSITION PROGRESSIVE FEDERAL PARTY (PFP) HAD THROUGH ITS ACTIONS IRRESPONSIBLY ENCOURAGED FOREIGN ATTACKS ON SOUTH AFRICA. BOTHA ATTRIBUTED THE "WORLD ONSLAUGHT" AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA PRIMARILY TO "INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM", WHICH, HE SAID, WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH ANYTHING SHORT OF THE INSTALLATION OF A RADICAL REGIME IN SOUTH AFRICA. TO ILLUSTRATE

THIS POINT, HE REFERRED TO A SURVEY CONDUCTED IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH SHOWED THAT THE FIVE MOST PROMINENT MEDIA (NEW YORK TIMES, WASHINGTON POST, NBC, ABC, CBS) REPORTED HUMAN RIGHTS INFRANCTIONS IN NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES FAR MORE OFTEN THAT IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. HE ALLEGED THAT SOUTH AFRICA RECEIVED 513 TIMES MORE BAD PUBLICITY IN THESE MEDIA THAN DID NORTH KOREA. IT WAS DISAPPOINTING, HE ADDED, THAT THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION DID NOT SEEM TO RECOGNIZE THE DANGER OF COMMUNISM IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

3. ON NAMIBIA, BOTHA HAD LITTLE NEW TO SAY, BUT REVIEWED HIS PERCEPTION OF THE RECORD, POINTING OUT WHAT HE TERMED SOUTH AFRICA'S REASONABLENESS IN ACCEPTING ONE-MAN, ONE-VOTE, A UNITARY STATE, AND A UN REPRESENTATIVE TO SATISFY HIMSELF AS TO THE FAIRNESS OF THE ELECTION. HE ADDED THAT THE SAG HAD EVEN ACCEPTED THE IDEA OF THE UN APPOINTING COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA AHTISAARI AS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. BOTHA SAID THE SAG HAD GONE AS FAR AS IT COULD, AND ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW MUCH FURTHER THE OPPOSITION WOULD HAVE HIM GO. HE ANSWERED HIS OWN QUESTION, SAYING HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO PULL OUT AND HAND SWA OVER TO "THE TERRORISTS". BECAUSE OF ALL THE CONCESSIONS SOUTH AFRICA HAD MADE TO INTERNATIONAL OPINION, BOTHA SAID, IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF AN INTERNAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SETTLEMENT, BUT OF FULFILLING OBLIGATIONS TO THE PEOPLE OF SWA. IN ANSWER TO INTERJECTIONS FROM THE OPPOSITION, BOTHA SAID THAT HE HAD DRAFTED ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL STEYN'S STATEMENT URGING PATIENCE ON INTERNAL POLITICAL GROUPS (USUN 190, CAPE TOWN 75 AND 87).

4. BOTHA MENTIONED RHODESIA ONLY BRIEFLY, TO POINT OUT TO OPPOSITION LEADERS THEIR RACIAL POLICY (WHICH HE SAID WAS SIMILAR TO SMITH'S ACCEPTANCE OF MAJORITY RULE WITH A NUMBER OF WHITE SEATS IN PARLIAMENT) WOULD LIKE SMITH'S PLAN NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

5. IN CONCLUSION, BOTHA TURNED TO INTERNAL POLITICS, AND SAID THAT THE SAG WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS AND MAKE ADAPPTIONS AND CHANGES, BUT WOULD FIGHT BEFORE FORCING ANY MINORITY GROUP TO GIVE UP ITS RIGHT TO ITS IDENTITY AND SELF DETERMINATION.
BOWDLER

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